REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 7, 9 and 15-19 have been canceled. Claims 21-22 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12,13, 20 have been amended. Accordingly, **claims 1-6, 8, 10-14 and 20-22 are now pending.**

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 16-20 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,452,349 to Uehara et al. In addition, claims 4, 5, and 8-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Uehara et al. patent when combined with U.S. Patent No. 6,125,126 to Hallenstal.

As will be discussed below, none of the pending claims are anticipated or rendered obvious by the applied prior art.

II. Summary of the Invention

For the Examiner's convenience, set forth below is a brief summary of the invention.

For a general understanding of the claimed subject matter Applicants suggest the Examiner review the application generally but in particular Fig. 10 and the corresponding description.

The present invention uses an AIN system which differs significantly from PBX call forwarding systems

and various other known systems. The system of the invention uses a peripheral device coupled by way of a telephone switch to a service control point. The peripheral device may be called to make changes in a customer's call forwarding service. Such changes may involve accessing and/or updating call processing information stored in the service control point corresponding to the particular subscriber seeking to modify his or her service. The service control point is responsible for making changes to triggers set at telephone switches which are used to implement the AIN based call forwarding services.

In accordance with one feature of the present invention, customers are provided an easy way to enable/disable call forwarding service from the subscriber's phone, i.e., **the phone for which call forwarding service is provided or from another phone**. In accordance with this feature, **a subscriber calls an peripheral device used to control call forwarding service** from his/her phone. **The subscriber's phone number is identified using automatic number identification (ANI) techniques and the subscriber's CPR stored in the service control point that is coupled to the peripheral by a telephone switch is accessed**. If call forwarding is enabled on the subscriber's phone, the subscriber can disable call forwarding by simply pressing a first code, e.g. *73. This causes the subscriber's CPR, and/or TAT trigger set on the subscriber's line, to be modified so that call forwarding will be disabled.

If call forwarding is disabled on the subscriber's phone, but was previously used, the subscriber can enable call forwarding to the last number to which calls were forwarded by simply pressing *72. This causes the subscriber's CPR, and/or TAT trigger on the subscriber's line, to be modified so that call forwarding will be enabled. This feature is made possible by the fact that the CPR, unlike a telephone switch, stores the previously used call forwarding number even after call forwarding is deactivated.

If a service subscriber is calling from a phone other than the one for which call forwarding service is provided, a telephone number can be entered and the call forwarding service information corresponding to the entered telephone number can be modified in accordance with the invention.

II. The Rejections Under §102

The principal reference used to reject the claims is the Uehara et al. patent.

1. The Uehara et al. patent Does Not Anticipate or Render Obvious the Pending Claims

The Uehara et al. patent describes an ISDN telephone system which supports call forwarding. The Uhera et al. system uses a PBX to store call forwarding information and control call forwarding services. Such a system differs significantly from the AIN implementation of the present invention.

The Uhera et al. patent does not disclose the use of a peripheral device which is coupled to a service control point by way of a telephone switch to control a call forwarding service provided using the service control point. The PBX implementation disclosed in the Uhera et al. patent actually teaches away from such a system by combining call forwarding control and forwarding information in a single PBX. Furthermore, **the Uhera et al. patent does not teach, disclose or suggest using automatic number identification information to access a call processing record which includes call forwarding information.** The portion of the reference cited by the Examiner which describes commands used to control the display of telephone number information on a terminal does not disclose or suggest using such information to access stored call processing records which are to be modified to update a call forwarding service. **Applicants respectfully submit that displaying telephone numbers on telephones does not require the accessing of customer records stored in a service control point.** Applicants further note that the Uhera et al. patent does not teach, disclose or suggest controlling call forwarding information **by making a call from a telephone other than the one for which call forwarding is being provided and using a telephone number entered by the caller to identify the telephone for which service information is to be changed.**

2. The Hallenstal Patent Does not Make Up for the Deficiencies of the Uehara et al Patent

The Hallenstal patent describes a call forwarding service which is implemented in some embodiments using a service control point. However, it fails to anticipate or render obvious the use of a peripheral device which is called to update call forwarding service information in the manner recited in various pending claims. It also fails to teach, disclose or suggest using automatic number identification information as part of a call forwarding service update operation as recited in various pending claims. It also fails to teach, disclose or suggest updating service information from a call placed to a peripheral device which uses automatic number information in some cases but where the telephone number corresponding to the phone whose service is to be updated is provided by the caller, e.g., in the case where the caller is calling from which does not correspond to the service to be updated.

Accordingly, alone or in combination with the Uehara et al. patent, the Hallenstal patent fails to anticipate or render obvious the pending claims.

III. The Pending Claims Are Patentable

1. Claim 1

Claim 1 and the claims which depend there from are patentable because claim 1 recites:

> A method of controlling a call forwarding service comprising:
> **operating *a peripheral device coupled to a telephone switch* to receive a call from a caller using a first telephone;**
> **determining *using automatic number identification information* a first telephone number** corresponding to the first telephone;
> detecting receipt of a first signal from the first telephone;
> **determining from the first telephone number and stored information if the first telephone corresponds to a telephone for which call forwarding service is supported;**
> **if said first signal is a control signal used to activate call forwarding and it is determined that call forwarding service is supported for the first telephone**, determining if a previously stored call forwarding telephone number is available ***in a call processing record stored in a service control point coupled to said peripheral device by said telephone switch***, said call processing record being associated with said first telephone number; and
> if it is determined that a previously stored telephone number is available, i) **updating said call processing record associated with said first telephone to indicate that call forwarding is active;** and ii) enabling the forwarding of calls directed to the first telephone to a second telephone using said previously stored call forwarding telephone number.

2. Claim 10

Claim 10 and the claims which depend there from are patentable because claim 10 recites:

> A method of controlling a call forwarding service comprising:
>
> **operating *a peripheral device coupled to a telephone switch* to receive a call from a caller using a first telephone;**
>
> detecting receipt of a first signal from the first telephone;
>
> **determining *using automatic number identification information* a first telephone number corresponding to the first telephone;**
>
> **accessing, using the first telephone number, *service information maintained in a service control point coupled to said peripheral device by said telephone switch;***
>
> determining **from the accessed information** if the first telephone corresponds to a telephone for which call forwarding service is being provided; and
>
> **if it is determined that call forwarding service is provided for the first telephone, disabling call forwarding service in response to the first signal when said first signal is a control signal used to disable call forwarding.**

3. **Claim 20**

Claim 20 is patentable because it recites:

A communication system, comprising;
a telephone;
a telephone switch coupled to said telephone;
a *peripheral device* coupled to said telephone switch;
a service control point coupled to said telephone switch and to said peripheral device by way of said telephone switch;
said peripheral device including means for receiving a first telephone call routed to said peripheral device by said telephone switch and for receiving from the telephone a first control signal;
said peripheral device further including **means for communicating telephone number and control signal information to said service control point by way of said telephone switch;**
said service control point including:
i) **means for accessing a call processing record corresponding to the first telephone as a function of information communicated from said peripheral device;**
ii) **means for determining if the accessed call processing record includes a telephone number to be used when forwarding calls directed to said telephone;** and
iii) **means for activating a call forwarding service,** said call forwarding service forwarding calls directed to said first telephone **as a function of said telephone number *when it is determined that the accessed call processing record includes said telephone number* and said control signal is a call forwarding activation signal.**

4. Claim 21

Claim 21 and claim 22 which depends there from are patentable because claim 21 recites:

> A call forwarding control method, the method comprising:
> **operating a peripheral device coupled to a telephone switch to receive a call from a first telephone;**
> **operating the peripheral device to receive a signal from the first telephone;**
> **determining if the signal is a call forwarding control signal**; and
> ***if the received signal is determined to be a call forwarding control signal,***
> ***i) using automatic number identification information to access a call processing record corresponding to said first telephone***, said call processing record being stored in a service control point coupled to said peripheral device by said telephone switch; and
> ii) modifying the content of said call processing record in accordance with the received call forwarding control signal; and
> ***if the received signal is determined not to be a call forwarding control signal, determining if the received signal is a telephone number of a subscriber for which a service is provided using said service control point.***

V. Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and claim amendments, it is respectfully submitted that none of the pending claims are anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record. Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance.

If there are any outstanding issues that need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss said issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael P Straub Reg No 36,941 for:
Loren Swingle

October 24, 2003

Loren Swingle, Attorney
Reg. No. 32,764
(914) 644-2366

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patents and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Michael P. Straub
Type or print name of person signing certification

Michael P Straub
Signature

10/24/03
Date